

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 19-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 19, and 23 are canceled above. Claims 3, 6, 20, 21, 22, and 24 are amended above. No new matter is added by claim amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants have previously pointed out to the Examiner in previous amendments that the Office Action Summary does not indicate whether the drawings filed in the application are acceptable. Applicants request that the Examiner confirm that the drawings filed in the applications are acceptable.

Applicants note with appreciation that the current Office Action indicates at page 12 that claims 3-5, 7, 21, and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, allowable claim 3 is rewritten to be in independent form, and independent claim 1 and intervening claim 2 are canceled. Dependent claim 6 is amended to be dependent on claim 3. Allowable claim 21 is rewritten to be in independent form, and independent claim 19 is canceled. Dependent claim 22 is amended to be dependent on claim 21. Entry of the amendments and allowance of amended independent claim 3, and claims 4-9 dependent thereon, and independent claim 21, and claims 20 and 22 dependent thereon, are respectfully requested.

Applicants further note that the previous Office Action dated December 28, 2005 indicated that dependent claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, with respect to the Office Action dated December 28, 2005, claim 24 is rewritten to be in independent form, and claim 23 is canceled. Entry of the amendments and allowance of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 19-20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Suemura *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,039 - hereinafter "Suemura") in view of Danger (U.S. Patent No. 5,633,608). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Suemura in view of Danger, and in further view of Sakamoto, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,557,110 - hereinafter "Sakamoto"). Rejected independent claims 1 and 19, and intervening claim 2, are canceled. Rejected dependent claims 6 and 20 have been amended to be dependent on allowable claims. Rejected claims 8-9 are dependent on intervening claim 6. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections of claims 1, 6, 8-9, and 19-20 are overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and removal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1, 6, 8-9, and 19-20 are respectfully requested.

Claims 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for reasons stated in the Office Action at page 2, section 3. Previously allowable dependent claim 24 is rewritten to be in independent form, and independent claim 23 is canceled.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, with respect to the rejection of claims 23 and 24, Applicants respectfully disagree with assertions made in the Office Action at page 2 that the claimed method lacks a practical application. A practical application requires the invention to produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result (see Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) at Section 2106). The present application clearly indicates that the method claimed in amended independent claim 24 produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result for a particular purpose, in accordance with Sections 2106 - 2107 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP). In particular, amended independent claim 24 states "determining state data from which the synchronous signal is detected, among the latched state data, to be the restored information data, when the serial data is the synchronous signal," which is a useful, concrete, and tangible result of a "method of restoring information data from data in which n-bit synchronous signals (where n is a positive integer greater than or equal to 1) and the n-bit information data are multiplexed and transmitted together with a clock signal in series via a transmission channel," as claimed in amended independent claim 24. In addition, the specification at page 40, line 24 through page 41, line 6 provides a detailed explanation as to the practical application of the present invention, that is, *inter alia*, to stably restore information data from serial transmission data even if the transmission data introduces skew (see page 41, lines 3-6 of the present specification). For at least the reasons described herein, Applicants have shown that the present

invention as claimed in amended independent claim 24 has a practical application.

Applicants further submit that, in accordance with the MPEP at Section 2107.02, a *prima facie* showing under 35 U.S.C. 101 that the present invention as claimed in amended independent claim 24 lacks utility has not been made. The *prima facie* showing must be set forth in a well-reasoned statement (see MPEP at Section 2107.02). Any rejection based on lack of utility should include a detailed explanation why the claimed invention has no specific and substantial utility (see MPEP at Section 2107.02). However, Applicants find no such detailed explanation in the Office Action. Rather, the Office Action at page 2 suggests “clarifying the claimed practical application so as to exclude recitation of every ‘substantial practical application’ of the claimed law of nature.” However, for at least the reasons described herein, the present invention as claimed in amended independent claim 24, and further disclosed in the present specification, has a practical application. Further, Applicants are not claiming a “law of nature.” Specifically, Applicants find no support for the position that the “method of restoring information data from data...,” as claimed in amended independent claim 24, is categorized under unpatentable laws of nature.

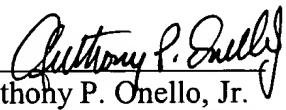
For at least these reasons, reconsideration and removal of the rejection of claims 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. 101 are respectfully requested.

Closing Remarks

Entry of the above amendments and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. If prosecution of the application can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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